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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/699,796	ZHANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Julie-Huyen L. Ngo	2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/10/05.
- 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17, 18 and 20-74.
- 3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 - 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/799,785.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- 4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 - 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 10, 2005 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-18 and 20-74 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 17, 21, 25, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35 and 37 are allowed since there is no prior art of record that teaches a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display comprising the steps:

Claims 17, 21, 25, 29, 31, 32, 33 and 35:

- forming a third electrode over a substrate surrounding or outside the active matrix circuit region and the driver circuit region;
- performing at least one step with the third electrode being electrically connected to a first electrode formed in an active matrix circuit region over the substrate and a second electrode formed in a driver circuit region over a substrate;

- electrically separating the third electrode from the first and the second electrodes after performing said at least one step.

Claim 37:

- forming at least two first conductive layers over a substrate in the active matrix circuit region;
- performing at least one step with the second conductive layer being electrically connected to the two first conductive layers;
- electrically separating the second conductive layer from the two first conductive layers after performing said at least one step.

Wherein the second conductive layer is an electrode of a protective capacitor.

Claims 18, 20, 22-24, 26-28, 30, 32, 36 and 38-74 are allowed since they depend on the allowed claims.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Eguchi (US 6358767) discloses a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display, a step of reducing the electrostatic destruction of switching elements is provided. An electrostatic destruction preventing short-circuiting ring is left on an active

matrix substrate until the execution of a short-circuiting bar-carrying FPC fixing step is finished. This enables the electrostatic destruction of the switching elements, which occurs due to the operations in a chamfering step to a FPC fixing step, to be reduced.

Zhang et al. (US 6496240 B1) disclose a liquid crystal display apparatus containing an image sensor, which comprises a liquid crystal display part comprising an active matrix circuit, a peripheral driver circuit for driving the active matrix circuit, and a sensor part, integrated on one substrate, wherein the sensor part is sealed and protected with a sealing part and a counter substrate.

Zhang et al. (US 6055034 A) disclose a liquid crystal display comprising a laminated spacer portion made of aluminum formed by laminating various thin films that constitute thin-film transistors is disposed in peripheral driver circuits.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Julie-Huyen L. Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2295. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Robert H. Kim can be reached at (571) 272-2293.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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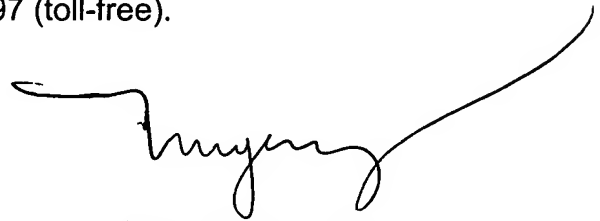
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie-Huyen L. Ngo', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

January 6, 2006

Julie -Huyen L. Ngo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2871